

address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans are frustrated. Back in May, the Senate passed the "No Illegal Alien Left Behind" bill which hands rights and benefits to law-breakers on a silver platter. Clearly we have a large hurdle to overcome in compromising with this very atrocious bill.

However, with each day that we fail to pass meaningful border security reform, Americans become anxious that we will do nothing or even worse that we may cave in to the Senate. I heard from more than 14,000 constituents over the last month who emphatically told me that they do not want amnesty for law breakers.

Listen up America: We must stand united behind the border security bill passed by the House, H.R. 4437, and to proclaim to Americans that we agree with them and we will never give amnesty to illegal aliens.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

U.S. MILITARY'S READINESS PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on July 5, 1950, near the city of Osan in South Korea, North Korean forces faced a battalion of American soldiers who had been sent to stop the Korean advance. This battalion of 406 soldiers was undermanned, under-trained and poorly equipped. These soldiers fought a 7-hour battle that ended in retreat, and with 150 American infantrymen killed, wounded or missing.

This battalion was known as Task Force Smith, and its failure was due to a lack of readiness on the part of our military after World War II. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the low readiness levels of the Army and the Marine Corps are going to once again endanger our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about readiness problems before. And it continues to concern me as this situation worsens. Let me be blunt. Our ground forces and their reserves face a crisis with manpower and equipment shortages and will be challenged to complete their missions should they be called to respond to an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I have used the word "readiness" many times before. But I feel it necessary to clearly define its meaning. Readiness describes the condition of our military forces. It is a measure of how well they are manned, trained and equipped to complete the full range of missions necessary to defend our Nation.

This is why the falling readiness levels of our Army and our Marine Corps are so disturbing. They indicate that we may not be able to defend our Nation's interests wherever they may face challenges. The most striking example of this problem is with equipment. Over 40 percent of the Army and Marine Corps ground equipment is now deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. It is wearing out as much as nine times faster than normal. Only 3 years in Iraq has placed as much as 27 years of wear on our equipment, forcing the Department of Defense to cannibalize the equipment of non-deployed units and the National Guard.

This cannibalization of equipment has left the Army without a single combat brigade in the Continental United States ready for all of their war-time missions.

Simply put, the war in Iraq is sapping our strategic base and leaving us with a broken Army. The Armed Services Committee is nearing agreement to add \$20 billion to the Defense Authorization Act for next year to try to help fix this grave situation.

This will help, but the Department's readiness problems are too large to be fixed by a one-time investment. Together, the Army and Marine Corps need an astounding \$29 billion in 2007 to repair or replace equipment damaged in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amount is only part of the overall bill that represents a snapshot in time of a problem that is large and continues to grow.

The problem has developed over time due to mismanagement and a failure on the part of the administration to adequately plan for Iraq. It cannot be solved overnight. Congress can continue to provide band-aids for readiness shortfalls by funding through supplementals, but the Army and Marine Corps are limping along. They cannot keep pace with falling readiness levels.

The only way to truly solve this problem is for the administration to commit to fully funding the needs of the Department of Defense. This country is at war. Americans have a right to expect the administration to realistically budget for national defense. The stakes are high. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford another Task Force Smith.

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Wayzata Community Church of Wayzata, MN, on its 125th anniversary of ministry and mission.

Founded in 1881 by a dozen early settlers on Lake Minnetonka, Wayzata Congregational Church grew to 70 members within 2 years. In 1912, a new church was built, but it burned down 4 years later. Remarkably, it was rebuilt by a determined congregation in only 7 months.

Then, in 1948, the church officially became Wayzata Community Church, and ground was broken for a new building at Ferndale Road and Wayzata Boulevard in Wayzata, where this dynamic community of faith is located today.

With nearly 3,000 members, Wayzata Community Church is one of the five largest congregations of the United Church of Christ. My family and I are grateful members of this loving and nurturing congregation. Our church is a place of spiritual growth, compassionate support and committed service.

For 125 years, Wayzata Community Church has been a place of growth and renewal, fellowship, outreach, community service, music ministries, and children and youth ministries.

For 125 years, Wayzata Community Church has been there to help people in need, people suffering the ravages of poverty, homelessness, hunger, addiction, broken homes, disease and despair.

One hundred twenty-five years of providing food, shelter, clothing, transportation, counseling and support groups.

Wayzata Community Church, Mr. Speaker, is a key partner of Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, a partnership of faith communities, other community organizations and individuals that serve low-income people in eight of our west suburban communities.

Wayzata Community Church's extensive commitment to doing the Lord's work here on Earth also includes programs such as Adopt a Family, Families Moving Forward, Hurricane Relief, Loaves and Fishes, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army bell ringers, the legendary Women's Fellowship annual rummage sale, and the Sleep Out for the Homeless, to name but a few.

Wayzata Community Church, Mr. Speaker, is truly a church that lives out the biblical command to love God, love others and serve the least amongst us.

The church is also a lively hub of activity in the Lake Minnetonka area for seniors, children and their friends and people of all ages. From music performances, authors, workshops, scouting, support groups, basketball games, nursery schools, you name it, it is all there at Wayzata Community Church.

Wayzata Community Church has also been blessed with truly visionary and dedicated leadership over the past 125 years.

On this historic anniversary, we are especially grateful for our current senior minister, Reverend Dr. John Ross,